

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

Applicants: Timothy J. GREENAMYRE, et al.

U.S. Serial No.: Continuation of 09/247,537 Group Art Unit: 1644

Filing Date: December 14, 2001 Examiner: Nolan, P.

For: DETECTION OF NEURODEGENERATIVE
DISEASES, IN VITRO SCREENING ASSAYS

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 2327
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Attorney Docket No. E2690/187231
Date: December 14, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In the Specification

On page 1, immediately preceding the words "BACKGROUND OF THE
INVENTION" please insert the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/247,537 filed on February 9,
1999, now pending, which claims benefit of the filing date of U.S. Provisional Application
Serial No. 60/074,729, filed February 13, 1998, the entire contents of which are hereby
incorporated by reference.--

In the Claims

Please add the following claim 9:

9. (New) A method for aiding the diagnosis of, or screening for the risk of,
Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, or Leber's hereditary optic
neuropathy in a subject, comprising:

(a) providing a quantity of lymphoblasts from a subject to be evaluated;

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(b) measuring acidification rate of the lymphoblasts, in the presence of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of an inhibitor of the mitochondrial electron transport chain, a calcium ionophore, and mixtures thereof; and

(c) determining the presence of a pattern of responses in the stimulation of the acidification rate to a set of said compounds, that corresponds to a neurodegenerative disease.

Respectfully submitted,



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